

VZCZCXRO9302
PP RUEHDBU
DE RUEHNT #0536 0821354
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 231354Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5381
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY PRIORITY 7718
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 1823
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 2346
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY 2242
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1344
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV PRIORITY 0798
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 6585
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0669
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1706
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0064
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000536

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/CEN, DRL, PRM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/23/2016

TAGS: [PREF](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UZ](#)

SUBJECT: GOU DENIES ACCESS TO UZBEKS DEPORTED FROM UKRAINE

REF: A) KIEV 797 B) TASHKENT 520 C) TASHKENT 430

Classified By: AMB. JON R. PURNELL, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B, D).

11. (C) In response to Post's request that international monitors be given access to the Uzbeks deported from Ukraine (ref A), the MFA replied in a March 23 diplomatic note that the individuals are subjects of a criminal investigation. In order to provide a fair investigation free from interference, the note states that it would be premature to grant UNHCR and ICRC access to the individuals. The note concludes by stating that international experts will be able to observe the court hearings following the completion of the investigation.

12. (C) UNHCR's Protection Officer and the OSCE's Human Dimension Officer told Poloff that their offices have still not received responses to their diplomatic notes inquiring about the status of the returned Uzbeks. (Note: The GOU's recent request to shut down the UNHCR office in Tashkent (ref B) will likely mean that the UN will not receive a response to its inquiry. End note.) The GOU has strongly criticized both UNHCR and the OSCE over their statements of concern for the deported Uzbeks (ref C).

13. (C) Comment: Giving international monitors access to the trials is not a great concession; if the investigation and trial proceed along normal lines, the outcomes are already foregone conclusions.

PURNELL